

CROSBY POST

BING'S THE
POP OF
THE POPS



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

SWEET LEILANI

I'VE GOT A POCKETFUL OF
DREAMS

ON THE SENTIMENTAL SIDE

AN APPLE FOR THE TEACHER

EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN

ONE, TWO, BUTTON YOUR SHOE

MEET THE SUN HALFWAY

THE MOON GOT IN MY EYES

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA

ME AND THE MOON

SOUTH SEA ISLAND MAGIC

WHEN MOTHER NATURE SINGS
HER LULLABY

SAIL ALONG SILV'RY MOON



Bing Crosby

her Bing collection of some 80, 78's in EX condition for the class record Bank - so you can see we have much to be thankful and to remain thankful for to Stan White.

Bob Roberts is handling the Singing contest that Tony Gilmartin suggested and my initial reaction to Bob's handling of this chore has been of great interest and I'm sure a worthwhile chore will result - finding some prizes that were different was the main problem but I think we have succeeded - hope you'll all have a go - its a bit of fun and you never know, you could wind up as

* THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY *
* founded March 1950 *

* Honorary President; BING CROSBY * 9229 Sunset Boulevard,
* Honorary Vice-Pres; LARRY CROSBY * Los Angeles 69, California, USA.

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Crosby Post is edited and produced for THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY by
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MARCH.....	material deadline...	Feb 1st.....	*****	contributors are asked to observe the material deadline dates
JUNE	" "	...May 1st.....	*****	
SEPTEMBER.....	" "	...Aug 1st.....	*****	
DECEMBER	" "	...Nov 1st.....	*****	

Members due for renewal should renew not later than the material deadline for the next issue of Crosby Post - your co-operation in this respect is earnestly requested.

An X Here.....signifies that your renewal is now due - to register your self for the next year please forward your renewal direct to JACK MANNERS making your cheque or postal order payable to The British Crosby Society.
Annual Sub; British Isles 10/-; - Overseas Two Dollars (14/-)

3rd Prize; Phil's Reprise single was won by ...
Thanks folks and congrats to the lucky winners.

Next Frank Hatwell has accepted the Post of Publicity Officer for the Midlands, this will be a big help and Frank has started off with a good idea which is to have an advert for the club in many shop windows in the Midlands - Now if any of you would like to help in this respect in your own cities or towns and villages will you let me know and I will get Frank (M) to print some post cards for that purpose - we can certainly use the publicity and this is a very good way to get through to the many Bing admirers who don't even know if the club

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EDITORIAL

Though quite a few of the usual contributors failed to come up with an item for this issue we have still managed to come up with an interesting issue and some of the credit for the large amount of material that was available must go to Ken Mc Manus who with his article on the record companies in the last issue certainly ensured a packed issue this time.

I must apologise for the lack of new photo pages. Two of the proposed stencils didn't come out as well as they should so they were scrapped - Our old Bing's Hollywood one came out of hiding again and made up for a blank page 16, this one is a favourite of mine and comes up well in the Post.

For the very first time the club now has representation right through the country - with the appointment of Bob Roberts and Frank Hatwell as Publicity Officers in the South and Midlands, they join John Maughan in making the club fully active throughout the country - I would ask all club members to rally round our new P.O.'s and offer any help that will mean the expansion of our Crosby club in England - at the same time I wish to direct an appeal to our overseas members for it has long been my opinion that Crosby Post with its varied and Crosby topical content should be of just as much interest to overseas collectors and fans as it is to British Isles members - at present about 50 copies of Crosby Post leave England every issue for destinations all over the world - what a miserable figure - so I'd like to see a big boost in this figure and I'm sure our overseas members could do much to promote this request by showing the Post to their friends - and recently we printed a new and attractive introduction form which gives a full picture of the clubs entire activity, if you send your friends name to any of our Publicity Officers they will be glad to mail a form to them,.

continued on page 4

Northern group members will find great pleasure in the great news on page 12 and we would remind them that continued support to all the clubs local functions is the best way to make sure they continue - whilst on the subject of the film shows I must pay tribute to the wonderful assistance given by Jack Shaw and his good wife Leah who have been of indispensable assistance at our ACA Headquarters - ticket taking and raffle holding plus the actual M'C duties all receive first class attention in the hands of our able friends Mr and Mrs S - so on behalf of the club many thanks to you both.

I was deeply touched by the batch of letters that Jack sent me from which I was to make a selection for the Members Letter spot - so many letters of praise about the Post and our humble efforts are much appreciated - there's so much to do yet before we can feel really worthy of such praise, but it's nice to know we are on the right track.

Stan White leaves the list of officers, but I hope sincerely that he will continue to keep in touch - Stan is without a doubt the clubs leading member and without his help, financial and otherwise we would have been hard pressed on many occasions - just a few days ago in fact he sent me a letter he had received from a 'papsed' Crosby fan in Shiremoor Ann Walton who had written to Stan re his ad for Bing photos and cuttings for the club - through Stans interest I have now bought from Ann a whole pile of great photos and cuttings of Bing and at the time of going to press I am negotiating a deal to purchase her Bing collection of some 80, 78's in Ex condition for the clubs record Bank - so you can see we have much to be thankful and to remain thankful for to Stan White.

Bob Roberts is handling the Singing contest that Tony Gilmartin suggested and my initial reaction to Bob's handling of this chore has been of great interest and I'm sure a worthwhile chore will result - finding some prizes that were different was the main problem but I think we have succeeded - hope you'll all have a go - it's a bit of fun and you never know, you could wind up as MR BING 1964..

So now it is time to read on with this months Crosby Post - happy reading and don't forget to write in with a few words between now and the next issue - we'd like you to make the club an even bigger bond between collectors and friends than it is even now - and if you'd like your name to appear in the pen pal page, just yell out - it will go in,

Till December

Best to you all

Frank

CROSBY POST

Back number copies of the following editions are available at 3/- each post free; direct from Frank Murphy overseas 50 cents

1962 issues for DECEMBER
1963 issues for FEBRUARY: June; AUGUST: October; DECEMBER
1964 issues for MARCH and June.

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* SEPTEMBER CROZTALK *

* presented by *

* JACK MANNERS *

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Hello again for another roundup of club news and views and although there seems to be a scarcity of Bing news from America, we in London at least have had the opportunity to see HIGH SOCIETY once again - the film had a weeks run at the RITZ in the West End from June 20th, and ROAD TO HONG KONG which was shown for a week in North London and a further week in South London, July 20 to Aug 1st. Then of course Bing was playing his part in the film ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS which opened at the new Warner cinema in July. This film by the way has had a mixed reception from the critics, but on the whole seems to have passed the test - DAILY SKETCH critic quotes:-

"Bing Crosby stands a little aside from the clan at the party, but he sings and shakes a leg as though his heart were really in it"

I myself have not yet seen this film so judgement is reserved for a future occasion. More uppermost in my mind is the thought - When will Bing find a suitable role to enable him to take the lead in a near future film? - I am also wondering if the plans for DEVIL'S ADVOCATE and ROAD TO INDIA have been irrevocably shelved, it seems a pity that Bing and those concerned did not get down to something concrete when these films were discussed. Then of course we had the hopeful news of a couple of films that would concern Debbie Reynolds and Judy Garland as co-stars with Bing, but these apparently have gone by the board and the outlook is not too hopeful. I notice also that our friend Bob Hope is very quiet perhaps he and Bing are doing a good stretch of relaxing plus of course the golf, well of course we certainly an not blame them for these two have most surely given us a long span of entertainment. However I am always optimistic regarding Bing for time out of number I have given rise to the thought - "well I reckon ole Bing has called it a day" then he proceeds to give the lie to this with a fine L.P. and plans for more activity. Thinking thus, I wonder what happened regarding the L.P. of Country and Western songs that the maestro was due to record on the Capitol label way back in February? I think maybe this was shelved owing to the loss of his Mother'', could be. In any case I expect the guvnor will oblige with something for the Christmas season. I will be most surprised if he does not, can you hear me Bing!!!

Well now down to business, as you all know we held over the club raffle until August and a few more shillings rolled in making a grand total of £2 in tickets sold - we have now drawn the raffle and the winners are,.

1st Prize; Bing's album "Return to Paradise" was won by Jack Hale ticket No 136.
2nd Prize; the Reprise single with Bing/Frank/Dean was won by Ron Chalmers, No 22
3rd Prize; Phil's Reprise single was won by Shirley Oldhampstead, ticket No 80
Thanks folks and congrats to the lucky winners.

Next Frank Hatwell has accepted the Post of Publicity Officer for the Midlands, this will be a big help and Frank has started off with a good idea which is to have an advert for the club in many shop windows in the Midlands. Now if any of you would like to help in this respect in your own cities or towns and villages will you let me know and I will get Frank (M) to print some post cards for that purpose - we can certainly use the publicity and this is a very good way to get through to the many Bing admirers who don't even know if the club exists.

Next I would like to tell you about our friend, collector, and most faithful Bing supporter Frank Grant who has been keeping the Crosby flag flying North of the border in Scotland; Two interviews on television and one on radio, which to say the least is pretty good going - nice work Frank.

Now most letters I receive are interesting and appreciative of our efforts so on Frank's request I have sent up some for printing in Crosby Post and one letter in particular touched me very much, it came from Carlton Jemott - Carlton hails from the West Indies and is a great Bing man. We correspond quite frequently and are always promising to meet but never get round to it, anyway I hope Frank can find room for his letter. Actually Carlton is the only coloured member we have in the British Isles, which is surprising really as I should imagine Bing's kind of music must appeal to quite a few of them.

Time again to make our annual appeal for donations to our CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR BING AND KATHRYN - for many years now the club has sent our special thoughts at Christmastime via a gift from the club members to Bing and Kathryn - many members look forward to this opportunity of expressing appreciation through a donation to the present fund and any amount, however small will be appreciated so send your donations to me by the closing date which is November 25th.

Once again members comes the old cry from me to you for MORE LETTERS TO THE BBC some of you may decry this attitude on my part, but as always I insist that the radio and TV is the nerve centre of all publicity. Now recently some of you may have heard the request for NOW YOU HAS JAZZ, this was for 'numerous people' who had asked for it - for all I know some people may have asked for it, but actually I got all my family plus relations and eight pals of mine at work to send in a card for this - total from me, FIFTEEN REQUESTS - I hope you get the point. Now during the week of July 31st I had letters from six of our members telling me they had written to the BBC complaining in the main of too much 'pop' and not enough of the kind of music for people who had other tastes - now if half a dozen of our circle can do this have you thought of the impact the crowd of us could make, it just needs a little effort plus a post card or two or a letter saying what you want and how you feel - no insults as I don't think this helps ask for requests, appeal for Bing films and TV shows, ask for a further BING SINGS on radio - now do think about this and do it periodically, I am sure we can break through somewhere. I know only too well how the BBC is bogged down with red tape etc, only recently I put in a letter to them with ideas of a Bing programme. The answer I received was that they were always open to suggestions and obviously this called for further action, so another full scale letter from me with some (as I thought) sound suggestions for a regular Crosby programme to the so-called planner-in-chief. This time a short answer - they would consider my letter. However I don't easily give up and will continue on my merry way, but as previously suggested your full support is badly needed. In conclusion has not Bing amassed over the years a great and terrific amount of material, of course he has, and it's entirely up to us, his faithful supporters to see this material used and displayed to the public in the form of music and vision, there is no opposition, or very little to the 'pop' scene in general, all things are good if kept in their right perspective, but at the moment there is in my opinion too little of the good, so members, there may not be many of us left, but we can at least make our presence felt, so get out those writing materials now and so do it in the name of Bing and the Crosby Society.

Now I must give Frank full credit for the fine work he is doing in the Northern Regions with his club meetings and film shows, this is as you know, great publicity and my only regret is that I cannot find the time to do the same way from South, but I would support anyone who had the time and inclination.

CROZTALK
concluded

to have a go. My time is fully taken up writing for the club and on behalf of you members, also I hate to say it but I'm not getting any younger (sad thought) and don't laugh you lot you've all got to come to it!! - and Bing is still going strong isn't he!!

One last item, we now have our old pal Bob Roberts as Publicity Officer in the South and Bob is a worker - nuff said; Also Frank Hatwell is Publicity Officer in the Midlands and with John Maughan as Publicity in the North we now have a great team working to promote the club and Bing - so come, on all of you, into battle with those writing materials and a bit more support to the clubs projects and ventures.

Till next time around, cheerio. Jack.

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* ted Laker presents *
* INFINITE VARIETY *
=====

People who seek out Bing's older recordings and continue to buy his new releases are often asked why they specialise in one performers output.

Apart from the fact that many of these recordings are nowadays regarded under the heading of classics, being outstanding performances of songs with real meaning and content, sung with whatever qualities are required. Yet in many cases give a feeling of being so casual, as to make the whole business of making big selling records, long before today's gimmick ridden era, seem as though little effort was required.

Over the years many of these Crosby performances have stood the test of time well, even numerous assaults on the songs by other artists have not impaired most peoples opinions of the original performances by the old maestro. But more than just this statement justifies, (if one has to give a reason for collecting Crosby) it is the great variety that can be found in even the humblest collections.

From well sung hymns, through ballads of every type, novelty songs, humorous items, Hawaiian songs and excursions into the world of jazz with many bouncy numbers backed by brother Bob's Bobcats, or to quote more recent history the late Bob Scooby's band.

of course we all have our own special favourites in the range of Crosby discs, as shown in the many 'top ten' lists that have featured in the pages of the Crosby Post. Sides in Hawaiian vein are in my opinion just great to relax too especially the items with genuine backing groups, just lend an ear to HAWAIIAN PARADISE or SOUTH SEA ISLAND MAGIC for instance. Another

members will recall the recent Post write-up of the clubs appearance on Northern BBC's "Look North" - a copy of the television film was sent to the Crosby office and we were pleased to receive the following letter:-

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD - July 1, 1964

Dear Frank;

Bing is now working on his weekly half hour TV show, to start in September.

We received the film and sound on your BBC programme, and enjoyed it.

Pretty good - making the solicitous BBC -

Best

signed Larry

Larry Crosby

LC:vs



...call for Western songs; HOME ON THE RANGE. EMPTY SADDLES. or I'M AN OLD HAND, would fill the bill, the last with a neat line in humour, giving us yet more variety. Working with the mighty LOUIS, BOB HOPE, AL JOLSON, PEGGY LEE, and CONNIE BOSWELL, to list just a few of Bing's co-workers. Crosby has given us some gay carefree performances. With the assistance of THE ANDREWS SISTERS many another happy disc with carefree clever harmonising and teamwork has resulted.

The list of Bing's achievements in offering great variety through the medium of records is pretty well endless. Part time records such as the Singalong With Bing series must have gained him many new friends, as must also the new items on Reprise.

But thank goodness the records made in other years are still being constantly re-issued to remind us, that in the past as in the present Bing has always given us infinite variety!!!

STAN WHITE RESIGNS AS "TAPE CROSBY" CHIEF

It is with deep regret that we must accept Stan White resignation as head of TAPE CROSBY - Stan writes:-

July 7th, 1964

Dear Frank,

Enclosed is a letter from Fred Reynolds to me. I have decided to accept Fred's offer. Unfortunately I have such a heavy and demanding schedule of work at the moment, and for some time to come as I see it, that I am unable to carry on in quite the same way as before, and I know Tape Crosby will be safe with Fred, who has been on it for so long.

I feel sorry in a way to break this link, at the same time to remain on Tape Crosby, I have told Fred he can take over from the next round.

Best wishes - signed STAN

It was with some concern that I viewed Stan's announcement in the last Crosby Post asking for someone to take over Tape Crosby - after his expert handling of this notable chore for so many years it seemed hard trying to visualise "Here we go with another round of Tape Crosby" coming from the hands of someone else - but of course we all appreciate Stan's position and we certainly are grateful that he has found a collector of equal esteem to follow in his footsteps as controller of this noteworthy piece of Crosbyana. In Fred Reynolds we have someone who, not only is a well known expert on almost every Crosby topic, but who has proved himself to be a real and active member of the Crosby Society for many many years - I'm sure Stan will join with all the clubs officers and members in wishing Fred a host of successful rounds of Tape Crosby.....Frank....

"REQUESTS OF THE MONTH"

Here's your chance to really put Jack's CROZTALK requests into action by requesting Bing's two great numbers from the new film

"ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS"

ask for Bing singing

"MISTER BOOZE" and

"DON'T BE A DO-BADDER"

Hullo Members, here we are again, but on time with my contribution to Crosby Post this time.

First of all I would like to say that from my point of view fresh Bing news has not been too plentiful this year and to start with I would like to comment on the album RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS. This album I like very much indeed as every song I think is great, and they are sung in fine voice by Bing. RETURN TO PARADISE is my top track with LOVE AND ALOHA running a close second, they are however I find hard to separate.

There is one fault with the technical side of the recording judging by the opinions of those who have heard or played the record and I personally agree as well - This is that Bing's voice has not been allowed to come out above the orchestra. The music is too loud in comparison with his voice. Bing was recorded much better 30 years ago, and one newspaper record reviewer told me that he would not be reviewing the album as the recording engineers had messed the album up and let Bing down.

I wrote to Mr Sonny Burke of American Reprise and asked him if we could have Bing recorded better next time, you'll recall I wrote to him about the poor recording of THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED which many people disliked 'technically' None of the artists sounded in their usual manner and in the Melody Maker 'Blind Date' record review series I note that the record was played to Dick Haynes - his reply was that the duet between Bing and Dean Martin was reminiscent of the stuff Bing and Sinatra did in HIGH SOCIETY. So poor is the quality of recording that Dick Haynes never realised that Sinatra was on the recordings.

I have regretfully to report that up to the time of writing this feature Bing has done no recording for CAPITOL since last Christmas - so one of his secretaries tells me. This delays the C/W album and AROUND THE WORLD WITH A DIXIELAND BEAT, if I have been informed correctly which I am sure I have.

From discography data I have, I see Bing has done 5 tracks on an album for REPRIS called AMERICA I HEAR YOU SINGING - Frank Sinatra and Fred Waring are also equal participants on the record.

I had a nice letter from Mr David Kapp the President of Kapp Records, USA. Mr Kapp is a great Bing fan and he was responsible for releasing the Louis Armstrong record of HELLO DOLLY.

He tells me that like Satchmo, Bing is one of the sleeping giants who could have a hit anytime. It is conceivable he says, that Bing could make a record which would repeat the success of Louis. He points out that it would however have to be a new recording recorded in the sound style of today. My guess is that Mr Kapp is keeping his eye open for the right song too.

I see Bing's short message for the MICHAEL HOLLIDAY BENEFIT SHOW has been issued on a Columbia album of highlights from the show. It was on my suggestion to Derek Johnson of the New Musical Express who wrote to me some months beforehand about the show, that he and Russ Conway ask Bing for a 'taped message'. I sent them Bing's address and the 'master' obliged.

I see I have been successful in having Bing's 250,000,000 record sales mentioned two or three times on RADIO CAROLINE also our Society on this station, as I have four times this year on RADIO LUXEMBURG plus the Bing requests.

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Mr Joe Murrells of THE MUSIC RECORD RESEARCH BUREAU is a pen friend of mine and he has more data on Bing than anyone else in Britain. He has compiled a specialist book called THE WORLD BOOK OF GOLDEN RECORDS which lists up to last December 933 recordings which have sold a million or more copies. A biography on the many artists is listed including Bing of course and Bing's sales of around 250 millions are given.

An American publisher has taken the book to the USA with a possible view of it being published there first.

Mr Murrells tells me that research has resulted in another sure possible million seller, namely THE SPANIARD THAT BLIGHTED MY LIFE, duet with Bing and Al Jolson.

I see that Steve Race in his excellent television programme BIRTH OF THE BEAT on July 22 announced that Bing's record sales were now 250 million copies sold and that the Beatles would one day surpass it.

Being a 'Beat' show, Steve gave Bing a great plug here and my guess is that he tied up the Beatles with Bing in order to bring Bing into the programme, as the show is centred around the beat music screams and riots of the last 10 years. I wrote and thanked Steve for his great mention as other DJ's compares etc would not have given Bing the credit being as they are fans of other artists.

I was more than pleased to hear Ken Sykora's great programme on the BBC's CLOSE UP - This was a great piece for Bing indeed. Ken really made it clear as to who was the top man in the disc and entertainment world, and I just had to thank Ken as well. Dozens of people heard the broadcast and that they were amazed.

I expect all members are looking forward to seeing ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS and to the album of course. I note that in America DON'T BE A DO BADDER one of the Bing tracks from the film was released as a single backed with THE HUKILAU SONG

I hope that in the forthcoming TV shows that Bing will do for USA TV that the songs he will sing are recorded such that they can be edited out for commercial issue in case any catch on.

Finally let's have a blitz of postcards for requests to Radio Luxemburg and Radio Caroline and the BBC - I think everyone will agree that we can't have enough of Bing on the request shows and now that the BBC are going to have more request shows we might be fortunate to hear Bing more often.

In closing I'd like to thank Frank for his very fine Crosby Post last issue,

Best wishes,

Leslie Gaylor

Now Les Gaylor adds his plea to that of Jack Manners for more requests for Bing from the club members - when such leading Crosby people request it, I'm sure we can all comply - Les also sends the addresses you'll need:-

RADIO CAROLINE (199 Metres) Planet Productions Ltd, 54-62 Regent Str, London W1
for early morning requests or to get to the DJ's write to Radio Caroline, Church Str, Harwich.

RADIO ATLANTA (201 Metres) 47 Dean Street, London W.1.

NORTHERN AREA CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE

Following is a list of dates for the remainder of 1964 scheduling dates for club meetings to be held at our Newcastle upon Tyne venue:-

All meetings commence
at 6-30 prompt - doors
open at 6-00.

A.C.A. Headquarters
next to Balmbra's (Old Tyme Music Hall)
Cloth Market (opposite St Nicholas's Cathedral)
Newcastle on Tyne.

SUNDAY September 27th - Tape and Disc session only.

SUNDAY October 25th - Tape and Disc session plus film THE COUNTRY GIRL

SUNDAY November 29th - Tape and disc session plus film DOWN MEMORY LANE

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 19th- Tape and Disc session plus film WHITE CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY DECEMBER 20th- Tape and Disc session plus film WHITE CHRISTMAS

Admission is by advance ticket only - tickets available from
Ken Robinson 78 Strathmore Cres, Benwell, Newcastle on Tyne 4.
Price of tickets for 'film show meetings is 4/- each
Price of tickets for non-film show meetings is 2/- each.
**this showing of WHITE CHRISTMAS has been specially arranged for members with
children and children will be admitted at half price.
Please purchase your tickets early in view of the limited number of seats
available (65) and when making a postal application please always enclose a SAE.

BIG PLANS FOR 1965

During 1965 club meetings will continue at ACA Headquarters on the last
Sunday of every month and among the films booked for showing are-
HERE COMES THE GROOM: LITTLE BOY LOST: RIDING HIGH: ANYTHING GOES (1955)
MAN ON FIRE: JUST FOR YOU. plus a joint promotion with THE FRANK SINATRA
APPRECIATION SOCIETY of HIGH SOCIETY. details of dates etc will appear in
the December edition of Crosby Post

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CLUB MEETING LONDON - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19th.

Members are reminded at this late date not to miss the great club meeting
arranged at the home of club Pres, JACK MANNERS on the above date - many of
the clubs officers and leading collectors will be present - don't miss this
great opportunity to meet them - plus of course a chance to hear some of
Jack's great Crosby collection.

WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A PIECE???????

Your Editor urgently needs articles
etc for publication in Crosby Post
send these in by the closing date
for material for the next issue
which is NOVEMBER 1ST - 1964

SEND THEM ALL TO JACK

Members are reminded that ALL renewals
plus members notice of address changes
must be sent direct to Jack Manners.
When sending cash through the post it
is in your own interest as well as ours
to make it payable to the British
Crosby Society

know who.
According to the Post there are a few dissenters over the RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS album - tres magnifique! to pick one particular track, and say that's the best, I no can do, but as I listened with my eyes closed, I was transported to those islands, with the gentle swaying of the palm trees to the murmur of the sea washing on a silver beach, a Moon so large, almost unreal, lighting a path across the ocean, the music of the islands has a magic quality, a true overture to "Paradise" coupled with this, the voice of 'the master' in tone and inflections, a perfect combination.

13 SEPTEMBER.. Presenting a few of the newsy points made in your letters
POSTBAG.... during the interval since the last issue of Crosby Post.

JOAN WALTON writes from I Bridge Str, Brough, Kirby Stephen, Westmorland;-

I read Crosby Post in bed last night. I think you do a great job. There are so many interesting articles it is hard to say which is best but I do like to read other members letters in Post saying which records and films they like.

DUNCAN MC LEAN writes from I6a Forbes Str, Alloa, Scotland;-

Many thanks for the clubs introduction form which I found to be very interesting I am certainly looking forward to the Sept issue of Crosby Post, I recieved the December 1963 one this morning and I must congratulate you and your associates on your splendid efforts in putting together a most enjoyable magazine (great stuff) Let me know if you can use the story of my seeing Bing during his appearance here at St Andrews in 1950 - I took some great pictures of Bing there and I had to wait until 1961 to get them signed by Bing via my good friend Les Gaylor.

MARY HUGHES writes from 84 Hartington Str, Moss Side, Manchester I4.

Thank you for putting my advert in the last issue of Crosby Post for the Bing records I needed. Another Bing fan from Middlesex contacted me and I have now been able to purchase them from him.

ARNOLD POPE writes from 69 Poole Bank Str, Rhodes, Middleton Manchester

I'd like to say that I think the last few issues of Crosby Post have been truly excellent, even though it does seem a long way in-between now - still I know we can't have every thing - I have been particularly enthralled by Ralph Hardings crosswords - boy does he make them tough.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON signs in from 20 Neville Mount, Osmondthorpe, Leeds 9

I feel there are two noticeable qualities contained in the magazine this time First and foremost - Enthusiasm - it seems to bubble from every page - the secret there be I think is that of bringing the members into it and making them feel they are really a part of the Crosby Circle - this is the impression I got from the last issue.

Secondly I'd like to praise the balance of material and the photo prints - I also expect one or two lively comments to Ken's article.

DON WOOLLAND writes from I5I Cauldwell Lane, West Monkseaton, Whitley Bay.

I thought Keith Hyde's remarks about Judy Garland's misfortune and the strain on artists at the top, well chosen - also Ken Mc Manus's piece about the record companies very direct and good reading - with this and the rest of the great reading, Crosby Post is good enough to be sold nationally from newspaper shops etc - could that be a though for the future?.

EILEEN WATERS pops in from 75 Wolfington Road, West Norwood, London SE27

Yesterday I bought Bing's new album RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS. It's a marvellous record and one of the best he's made - he sings very easily on all the songs and I think I've nearly worn the album out already.

MORE FROM THE
"SEPTEMBER POSTBAG"

TED LAKER writes from 36 Villiers Rd, Southsea, Hants.

The poster I saw outside the Warner Theatre in London advertising the new film ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS had Bing's name well down the cast list. Jack said in a recent letter that he thought this to be a poor deal - anyway to have Bing in any film at all these days is cheering news.

Enjoyed the last bumper issue of the Post which certainly contained a few surprises, Ken Mc Manus with his piece on the record companies is bound to provoke some comment....and article of this type is just what is needed in the Post at intervals to stir up a little controversy - remember when Royston Dursley was given a spot in the mag he provided the next few issues with some slam bang content - seriously though to get back to Ken's articles he has put the case for promotion by the companies quite fairly, and all the publicity in the world won't make the bulk of record buyers purchase discs they don't want. Sad though it may seem to us, the BING'S HOLLYWOOD set was prominently featured locally but eventually the records seemed to drift into the stockpiles - as Jack says, quality doesn't count or reach the masses.

MISS E BAILEY writes from 46 Millfield, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay.

I would like to thank you on behalf of my mother, who joined the club some months ago, for the two editions of Crosby Post - I have also read them and enjoyed them - On Saturday morning my mother recieved a large autographed photograph of Bing through the post, I presume it must have come from Bing himself and his name and address were stamped on the envelope which had a Los Angeles postmark - It was a lovely surprise and very kind of him as she is such a new member and I have of course written to Bing and thanked him very much well thats the lot for now, keep up the good work.

CARLTON JEMMOTT signs in from 11 Lucien Rd, Tooting, London SW17

I am now awaiting the arrival of the E.P. with Bing singing YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME which I never knew he sang until I saw it in the June Post. It might interest you to know that I am a coloured West Indian who hails from the Island of Barbados and I was always keen on Bing - so much so that I emulated his type of singing - I always love singing and always takes to good singing and believe me he's the greatest exponent of the art. I think it's ridiculous that the BBC do not give us more Crosby records as they do so often the other singers who are not near the masters class.

IAN ARNOTT writes from 21 Rosefield Str, Dundee, Scotland.

I have just recieved a reply from the BBC regarding my query if they would be showing any Bing Crosby material - here is the letter:-

QUOTE:

Dear Mr Arnott,

This is to thank you for your recent letter and to tell you that we have no plans at present to show any of Bing Crosby's television shows on BBC TV - However we are hoping to show the film THE ONE AND ONLY BING in THE GREAT STARS OF HOLLYWOOD series at some future date - probably in the Autumn of 1964.

UNQUOTE:

From the above you will see we have one crumb of comfort in these Crosbyless days - it gives us something to look forward too

IAN continues-;

I thought this was going to be a bumper year for Bing but the months seem to be flitting by with very little news from the Crosby front. Turning to brighter things, Bing's L.P. RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS has given me many hours of listening pleasure since I purchased it, I think this is Bing's best album for years - he has captured the mood and atmosphere of these songs to perfection.

I am looking forward to the next issue of Crosby Post, the dearth of Crosby news in the musical papers shows me how much we depend on the 'Post' to keep us up-to-date on Bing news..

Ed. our thanks to Ian for obtaining that news of special interest from the BBC - those of us who have the tape of THE ONE AND ONLY BING can certainly vouch for the real treat viewers in the British Isles have later this year.

ELSIE KENNEDY signs in from 15 Lowestoft Rd, Watford, Herts;-

I enclose my 10/- sub for renewal for the next year. I certainly wouldn't miss it for I think the Post alone is well worth that. Such a lot of interesting news and gen about records etc.

I had a letter from Leslie Gaylor the other day, seems he agrees with my remarks about the Hawaiian album in the last Post, Les also had a lot to say about the request shows etc ; This Society is certainly a good way to make new friends.

VIC COXON adds a poetical note to letter spot, Vic writes from 12 Brantwood Ave, Isleworth, Middx

Sorry I've not been in touch of late but I'm the sort that waxes a lyrical note when I put pen to paper, especially if the subject happens to be you know who.

According to the Post there are a few dissenters over the RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS album - tres magnifique! to pick one particular track, and say that's the best, I no can do, but as I listened with my eyes closed, I was transported to those islands, with the gentle swaying of the palm trees to the murmur of the sea washing on a silver beach, a Moon so large, almost unreal, lighting a path across the ocean, the music of the islands has a magic quality, a true overture to "Paradise" coupled with this, the voice of 'the master' supreme in tone and inflections, a perfect combination - in short - - MORE PLEASE.

Ed. and so say all of us Vic.

and the last letter out of this months postbag comes from RON BOSLEY who writes from 105 Polefield Rd, Prestwich, Nr Manchester.

Enclosed is my 10/- renewal for my Society membership, I send it with a great deal of pleasure because in the main it is due to the Society that my interest in Bing has been so vigorously re-kindled.

.....oOo.....

Hope you've enjoyed this months extra long 'postbag' - let's have plenty of letters from now on for publication in the next issue of Crosby Post - send your newsy comments in now.

Bing



CAN'T WE TALK IT OVERA Quarterly Miscellany of Crosbyana - by LES PHYTHIAN

As this piece marks my initial contribution to CROSBY POST in the capacity of Disc and Movie Consultant, a brief declaration of policy would not be out of place. Let me make it perfectly clear from the outset that I am not contemplating anything like an organized, comprehensive survey of Bing's tremendous achievements during a long, distinguished and (happily) continuing career as the greatest entertainer and most accomplished vocal artiste in the history of popular music. Such a task would be slightly more than monumental and well outside the modest scope of this and future columns. Indeed, as the above sub-heading implies, nothing of a strictly programmatic character is envisaged. Rather will these features be in the nature of jottings - an unplanned miscellany of notes which, for the most part, will seek to avoid the more obvious choice of subject matter. In each issue I hope to select some idea or event pertaining to the ever-fascinating world of Crosbyana, and the article will sometimes concern itself with a number of different aspects, at others it may be devoted to a single theme. Such random reflections will aim at sustaining a frankly entertaining level rather than an academic one, though should it become necessary to introduce a more solemn note now and then no arbitrary attempt will be made to evade the issue. In this way - without abiding by an inflexible set of rules or conforming to any preconceived pattern - I shall do my best each time to provide material of interest, and perhaps diversion, for the benefit of all to whom Bing's life and work are matters of lasting concern.

Also, I'll be happy to deal with any queries which Members may wish to raise in connection with Bing's many films and recordings. Questions should be sent to me direct and the appropriate answers will appear in future issues of this magazine. A word of warning here, however. I cannot possibly undertake to handle such enquiries through the post; my spare time is already sufficiently curtailed as to render a regular output of letters virtually impossible, so, much as I regret the fact, an increased burden of correspondence must be discouraged at all costs. (See end of this article for further evidence!)

Chief item of interest at this writing is, of course, the soundtrack material from Warner Bros. new movie Robin and the Seven Hoods (songs by Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen, accompaniments by the Nelson Riddle Orchestra) which has recently made its welcome LP appearance on REPRISE R2021. It can be said right away that Bing can be heard in excellent form on the four tracks featuring his work. Assisted by a chorus of children he sings "Don't Be a Do-Badder" (an item which gets a repeat in the Finale where it's done as a quartet by Bing, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr.); there's a vaudeville-type routine called "Style" ably and smoothly performed by Messrs. Crosby, Martin and Sinatra; and last, but by no means least, a rollicking slice of tongue-in-cheek philosophy titled "Mr. Booze". This lengthy, lighthearted opus, which includes contributions from each of the other main artistes, is put across with superb aplomb by the perennial Mr. C at his versatile, unapproachable best. Yes, "Mr. Booze" is a delightful example of the Old Master in full vocal and dramatic command, very much 'en rapport' with the proceedings at hand. Whatever the visual sequences in the film may be like, there's no doubt that in terms of sound alone this is clearly the highspot of the entire production. As an added bonus the number provides opportunities for the famous Crosby speaking voice to be heard - and those uniquely modulated tones impinge as pleasingly as ever on at least one pair of ears. (Bing's way with the spoken word, incidentally, his lively intuitive response to the tonal qualities of language, his always adroit delivery of the telling phrase - these things are a constant source of pleasure and satisfaction to me. All of which is another story, as they say.....But maybe this aspect of the colourful Crosby personality - relatively undocumented - will inspire a piece all to itself one of these days. We shall see.....)

Although Robin and the Seven Hoods has not yet reached these parts, I'm pleased to

be able to include a quotation from Michael Thornton's notice of the movie which appeared in THE SUNDAY EXPRESS on July 26th. Having sketched a brief outline of the plot and paid tribute to the nostalgic elements in this updated story of Chicago's gangster era of the 1920's, Mr. Thornton had some serious reservations about the film as a whole and about Sinatra's performance in particular. But the closing paragraphs of his rather mixed review are guaranteed to gladden the hearts of all CROSBY POST readers. Here they are:-

" I must confess I was yawning up to the moment Bing Crosby made his quiet and studious entrance as the unworldly secretary of a children's orphanage.

The years have not dealt lightly with Mr. Crosby. The tips of the famous toupee have receded still further back upon that time-honoured face. But after some moments of horrifying suspicion that he had been introduced as a mute stooge for the Sinatra Clan, the Old Master opened his mouth to sing again and to prove that his sweetness of tone remains unimpaired and undiminished for all his years of seniority. "

Disregarding the bit about the years not having dealt lightly etc., I think it's most heartening to find this sort of discernment in the popular press of today.

I'd like to close on a personal note with a general word of apology to the many friends within the Society who, with wondrous patience and a rare show of indulgence, are still awaiting answers to letters written ages ago. The good and patient souls concerned will know exactly who these remarks are intended for. Excuses at this stage would be both futile and meaningless, so I won't attempt anything beyond the simple statement that a combination of circumstances, particularly over the past 18 months or so, have transformed me into one of the world's most unsatisfactory correspondents. For which sad state of affairs I am truly sorry. Please accept this sincere note of apology for these dreary shortcomings and believe me when I say that the silence to which you have now become so well accustomed is in no way due to wanton neglect or lack of consideration.

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EDITORS NOTE

Attached to the above article from Les was a note saying he'd like to continue using the caption CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER and make it an adopted heading - well Les, this is certainly okay by me - what better heading for a newsy matter than the title of Bing's 1931 classic recording "CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER" Incidentally at my request Les will from now on be giving a better coverage and review of Bing's TV shows - Les endorses my comment that suitable review and coverage of these has been sadly neglected in the past - so we can now look forward to some expert reviews of these from now on - with an able TV reviewer now all we need are some TV shows to go with him

"TOP QUOTE" comes from a letter from our "down under" pal KEITH HYDE

KEITH WRITES:- "...had a short letter and nice coloured autographed photo from Bing recently. Bing tells me he has completed a 'folk song' LP for Capitol which should be released shortly!" -

This spot of gen news from Keith is certainly great news for collectors who have been wondering what had happened to the plans for this album.

Though I'm generally relegated to the bottom of the page I felt that the material following required an intro from yours truly - particularly since the article by my good friend Ken Mc Manus in the last Crosby Post aroused the largest batch of replies ever recieved by me following an article by any one person in the pages of Post - in fact I feel I should headline this piece KEN ACHIEVES NOTORIETY - I'm sure Kenny will laugh and appreciate the 'pun' My thanks to all who wrote in and I feel that the following selection printed will carry a fair consensus of Post opinion - to those who slated me for including Ken's article in the first place I would remind them that Crosby Post has always been a place for comment either for or against - if you try to remember that comment cannot always be 'flowery' you will learn to appreciate honest opinion - Ken does and after all he wrote the article. Incidentally Les Gaylor whom everyone thought had been unfairly criticized (including me) does not want to air his comments in the Post, but I have it on good authority that Les has ticked Kensington off good and proper and the two of them are still good friends

AN ANSWER TO KEN MC MANUS (JUNE CROSBY POST) by STAN WHITE

Ken Mc Manus certainly put some thought into his article and I feel quite a lot of sense came out, however, some points need commenting on from my point of view.

Possibly the information regarding why record companies do not wish to disclose sales is correct, the only point here is, if the artiste does not sell then no more releases will be made, obviously Bing does still sell.

With regard to Les Gaylor and others writing to Bing at the drop of a hat, surely Bing is delighted to hear from these people, otherwise he would not give them the lengthy replies which people like Les do receive. Les has done much for Bing on a personal basis and Bing claims Les as a personal friend, so I see no reason why friends should not discuss the trivial things as well as the important.

With regard to complaining about poor recording quality, this is another matter, and it does not follow that a disc release with a poor sound originates from a poor master tape. The damage is usually done somewhere between a sub-master and cutting of a master pressing disc.

Personally I like to hear someone like Frank Ifield doing a good song - associated with Bing or not, I'm not so certain what my reaction would be to the Rolling Stones if they decided to adopt "MOONBURN" but let the better singers use the better material.

Poor old Mike Holliday, whatever did he do to you Ken? regardless of what you say, I know for a fact that when Norrie Paramor wanted Mike to record AROUND THE WORLD - Mike refused because he thought it might interfere with the sales of Bing's record. Of course there was no danger of this according to Ken's attitude, at least Mike had his heart in the right place, and but for that, he might be here today.

It was a pity about those Fontana discs not selling well, because they contained good selections and wonderful recording quality. I do dispute the comment about the many people who are supposed to TAPE Bing's records, sure enough this

...happens with non commercial material, however, even when some of this material (non commercial) is issued as a club disc, the firm cutting the discs are licenced by, and always charge a little extra, which goes to Mechanical Protection Society to pay back the composers etc in some way, maybe Bing does miss out on this in some way, but this can not be avoided. Collectors would not be collectors if they only added a tape of someones elses discs to their collection. It is the actual disc that counts. However if someone has a very rare disc, such a practise can be forgiven, as nobody is going to be able to buy it through normal channels anyway that would benefit Bing. I'm sure not many discs are passed around by members on tape especially the new issues. Tape Clubs might use this method of course, but then, MPC should get onto their toes and make these clubs pay for the licence annually to cover such activities. Don't tell me this can't be done, as I know of two instances where this has happened, and everyone seems happy about the arrangement. An extra few pennies is added to each members club sub to pay for this licence.

With regard to Bing's singles not selling, this must be so, but, after a while it might be worth giving him another try. Whoever thought that Louis Armstrong would knock the Beatles off their perch in America - but he did it with his first single for ages - actually - speaking of mis-taken loyalties, how about Messrs Ball, Barber etc, so called dedicated jazz men, grabbing Louis hit and trying to beat him to it in this country, that is a case that smells of a low down dirty trick to me. For those not with me I refer to the song HELLO DOLLY. They did not take one of his old songs, they grabbed his current hit and with the full approval of the record companies no doubt.

Mind you we are all beating our heads against a brick wall in trying to influence any record company into releasing any records. Record people, A & R men, publicity men etc are an impossible group to deal with, and are only equalled by the programme planners of the BBC. All one can do is hope that certain things will be released from time to time. You will never get a definite answer to your letters from them, they will promise to 'try' and release an item - or consider at the next meeting of the selection board' in fact your letter is answered then thrown into the nearest waste paper basket. You have to have someone in the record company who is interested in the artiste you are pulling for - or else you might as well go and bake bricks.

Thanks Ken for an interesting article, even if some of it does clash with popular ideas, no doubt that was meant to be the case. STAN WHITE.

next comes

JACK MANNERS "REPLY TO KEN'S ARTICLE"

Well now our friend Ken certainly blasted off in defence of the record companies in the last issue of Post and working for a record company obviously gives Ken more insight into the business than we "laymen" who may appear to him rather ignorant or dumb - nevertheless we are all entitled to our opinions, at the same time I welcome this article by Ken if only to stop us regular writers from becoming snug and tending to think we are always right, unintentional though this may be. More articles by members with adverse opinions would be welcomed to start free discussions at various times. That is what the magazine is for so it is up to you to have your say. So as Ken mentioned my name two or three times and I suspect directed most of his article towards things I had said in previous issues, I must therefore reply in like manner.

I cannot agree the record companies need be so sensitive with regard to the sales of certain LP's - as I have said many times before when contacting

company executives in the business with regard to this matter, the reply usually gives an indication of how a particular disc is selling - it is either a very brief answer or alternatively a couple of paragraphs indicating that the disc is selling well, in the latter instance an average figure would not be out of place and would give more satisfaction.

I fail to see where ethics come into this as once a record sells a million or half a million or even a much lower figure the companies concerned boost it to the skies, this is the time I take it to shelve 'ethics', I feel this is more a matter of which way the wind blows.

With regard to tapes and taping of discs I feel Ken is way off the beam here. Of course there are many tape clubs, also probably more recorders made than record players. That is progress. But so far as I can see, but so far as I can see that the advent of tape recorders has not diminished to any extent the sales of the record companies. On the 'pop' side of the business any youngster with a recorder need never buy a disc with the round the clock programmes on the air plus TV and beat shows - but the charts do not bear this out. No I don't think many royalties are lost as Ken implies for in my experience any record collector much prefers the original than the taped version, apart from those on the deleted list in which case there is no loss to the artist concerned.

Certainly Bing does and should only record when and only when he feels so inclined, and rightly so. I agree only in part that Bing's fans are of an adult age - this does not imply as Ken does that the young generation do not want to know .. So far as I can see they have no choice - radio programmes around the clock of beat shows plus the same treatment on TV is just hammered into them - who is to say if the BING SINGS programme were restored we in the CROSBY SOCIETY would not receive a boost plus a reasonable harvest of 'new blood' surely not all young folk are unappreciative.

I know I have a bee in my bonnet about this but a Bing hit would be the best tonic. In recent times there has been many near misses, to recap, IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN, and NOW YOU HAS JAZZ among them. There is no telling what will take the public's fancy, young and old alike. HELLO DOLLY is a case in point by the incomparable "Satchmo" who ever gave this one a chance!! Then again record companies short of Bing singles could have cut quite a few tracks from his LP's old and new, even Ken will admit there are some great ones, but I can hear Ken sigh "it's not practible" - but I say nothing attempted, nothing achieved, adding also if we do not try, who will.

Next I would remind Ken I gave the comperes and DJ's full praise for the fine run of plays on DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR also gave first class praise to Decca of the publicity on the 15 album set BING'S HOLLYWOOD - I did not bemoan the fact that other singers were recording a Bing song and grabbing a hit, but I certainly did denounce the beat boys making what to me was a mockery of those great standards - my opinion only... Frank Ifield does not enter this category, he is a fine singer, although I will say his rendering of PLEASE displeased me.

From this you will gather I am solidly for Bing, sometimes for the record companies, sometimes against them, it cuts both ways I guess, anyway Ken it's been interesting, but one last point I could not resist and this is where you mention our friend Les Gaylor could not differentiate between Bing, Sinatra and Dean Martin on the Reprise single they did together - Here I quote you Ken "After all those years listening to the Rhythm Boys this should have presented no problems!!! - Well now give Les a chance, Sinatra and Dean have only just started but with Bing around they are bound to improve - Nuff said

THE KEN MC MANUS CONTROVERSY continued

TONY GILMARTIN writes:

It was with some great surprise that I read the rather silly and quite untrue remarks Ken Mc Manus made about Michael Holliday - are you not aware that just before his death Mike had his own BBC TV show with plans for future shows and also that he was under contract to Norrie Paramour for a further three years and since his death an LP has been released "THE BEST OF MICHAEL HOLLIDAY" and also a single "DRUMS" backed with "CAN I FORGET YOU", these for your information are selling well up to the present.

If you were to ask anyone, teenager or O.A.P. who recorded such hits as YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS: NOTHIN' TO DO: OLD CAPE COD, without hesitation their reply would be "MICHAEL HOLLIDAY" - gone maybe, but by no means forgotten, he not only leaves his mark in pop history but also in the minds of the many fans and friends he made in all walks of life, and if you turn to page 8 of the June issue of Crosby Post you will find that quite a large number of his show business friends have not forgotten him - hence the great Benefit they gave in his honour - at the end of the evening Russ Conway introduced one last tribute from across the Atlantic - yes Mr Mc Manus BING HIMSELF who I am sure spoke not only for himself but for the club members and all the fans and friends of Michael Holliday - "BING" concluded by saying "I SHALL MISS HIM" and in my own humble opinion I think he has certainly left his mark with THE STORY OF HIS LIFE.....

FRED REYNOLDS writes:

I was interested in Ken Mc Manus' article defending the record companies. This of course shows a nice sense of loyalty to people who probably underpay him and I agree with him when he quotes hard facts. It is obvious however, that a very high percentage of the companies promotion and publicity efforts is directed at the teenagers. It is in the financial interest of the companies to do this and thus each ephemeral wonder gets the full treatment quite irrespective of the worth of the recordings. Crosby records have generally been notoriously under-publicised in recent years for the sole reason that the great majority of his followers are no longer teenagers. This, from a purely commercial aspect may be justified but the practice cannot be fairly defended on any other ground.

I am at a loss to understand Ken's logic, if any there be, in his remarks about the two songs from GUYS AND DOLLS. His view that they are essentially a part of the show is one with which I agree but surely this is the reason they should not have been taken out of context and issued as a single. As he himself implies one must hear the LP to appreciate the songs.

Whatever Ken says it is plain that recording companies must be held largely responsible for the degradation of popular music over the last decade. Since they, and not the song publishing houses, have dictated the trends the standards have fallen lower and lower. Aided and abetted by "popular" disc jockeys whose insincerity is evident to anyone over school leaving age, the companies have pushed cacophonous "pop" at musically ignorant adolescents so hard, loud and unscrupulously that the current scene is a travesty of what good musical entertainment should be. Hence the succession of rockers, screamers, shakers, twitchers, twisters, beaters etc with which we have been inflicted. When every mediocrity is hailed as fabulous and grotesquerie is substituted for talent, skill and art it is because the companies have

...sacrificed all to Mammon. Or does Ken really believe that they have succeeded in business without really trying? - Ken is defending the record companies - is he proud of what they have accomplished other than in their annual balance sheets? If he or anyone else wishes to defend the companies he should do so from the safe premise that they are commercial firms with an acumen equal to Ferranti's. Such arguments would earn my respect but I cannot sympathise with crocodile tears shed on behalf of the companies alleged artistic integrity.

KEITH HYDE writes

Whether one agrees with Ken Mc Manus or not, this is a really good article written by a man who obviously knows what he is talking about and will certainly stir up some interest. Powerful stuff Frank and congratulations on being man enough to publish it. For myself I am in the middle of the road regarding this article for whilst agreeing with Ken on most points I feel he has not given a true picture of the 'payola' angle whereby the public but mainly the teenagers are being exploited and brain-washed by some of the record companies who pay the DJ's to 'thrash' this rubbish on the air day and night. Of course I know its big business, but its a sad state of affairs when really top artists have to struggle to get an 'airing'. I know for a fact that this is the position here in Australia just as it is in most other countries at present, the fact remains that you must get the publicity and the promotion no matter who you are or how good you are.

I thought Ken went a little too far with his unwarranted attack on Mike Holliday and Les Gaylor though (even if he is right) Mike might have been stealing Bing's thunder, but there are very few top class crooners who hav'nt been doing this for years, whilst looking after themselves. Perry Como admits this right out, so what "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" who best to 'copy' than the greatest of the all - re the attack on Les, this is most unfair, just as well we do have a few fellows of his calibre to counteract the brainwashing.

One might think that I heartily disagree and am angered by Ken's article, but actually I think he has put up a pretty good case in defence of the record companies, and his argument in the main is quite fair and I agree entirely with him on most points and have enjoyed his article very much - Ken has gained a friend so far as I am concerned and he has my admiration for his outspokenness.

.....
and to wind up this piece here's Ken Mc Manus Himself in:-
"AINT GOT A FRIEND TO MY NAME"

Once more into the breach dear friends - it looks as though I am well and truly in the mire as my article in the last issue of Post caused a major revolution. I got more replies than Frank does to his raffles and I had'nt even made any 'free offers' or entrance fee, if I had we could have bought Bing a gold watch.

Apart from some very kind letters congratulating me on a fine article from half a dozen members, I had some most unsavoury ones, good job I was in the army and knew what some of the words meant - one in particular I'd like to reply too - next time buster, sign your name, if you've got the guts. I burned that one.

I have read that article over and over again and I can find nothing to offend anyone, except maybe Les Gaylor, I'm afraid that maybe I could have used a better turn of phrase and I have already written to Les apologising to him. But I am man enough to do the same in Post for all the members to see. My mention of Les

...was done not in malice or with intent to ruin a reputation. Les knows more about Bing's records than I ever hope to know - we all know of his tremendous efforts to 'boost Bing'. I regret my remarks most profusely. But Les read your letter to me again - WOW - I was almost on the next boat to I.O.W. with a shot gun - never mind pal we've had some fun answering that lot didn't we - all 20 pages, you must have been up all night. But as I say Les had the courage to put his cross.

Bob Roberts sent me a silver spoon and a few kind words. Ralph Harding sent a bomb (it didn't go off Ralph) BUT I'm left handed now. Frank Murphy suggests I emigrate and dear old Jack said "see you in September - BRING YOUR OWN TEA" --- But others!!! As Frank Sinatra says - "WOWEE".

Well it appears that I don't know what I am talking about - who am I to criticise collectors of greater renown than myself, to what extent I have tried to plug Bing. Or in short - who do I think I am. Also my remarks on Mike Holliday also brought the wrath of the Gods on my head - I could have used Al Bowlly or Charlie Snodgrass as an example of a Bing imitator - but not Mike. What is this chaps? - I only stated facts - not fiction. I only wish I could get fame as easily as that - by following in the footsteps of THE MASTER.

Well as long as reputations are at stake I may as well boost Ken, otherwise Members may think I write for Post as a sideline - not as an enthusiast of many years. This reminds me that I have among my friends collectors who have as many Bing discs as many of the better known collectors, and huge jazz collections on top - WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE BCS. I was approached by Jack Manners and willingly offered my services. Many people have written to say that my articles have brought new life to the magazine. I'm glad to have been of help. My own Bing collection only numbers a few hundred but my jazz and classical collection runs into several thousand. After Bing, I'm an Armstrong man of many years standing, so as a collector I didn't start yesterday. But think of the 'kicks' I get when I dig up a Bing that I require - it's tough on those members who have them all - maybe they have got in on the ground floor and collect the Beatles - they have some lovely sweet numbers, but for me "there's a lot of livin' to do"

As for my plugging Bing, well that's been one of my favourite pastimes for years. I don't write to the BBC and hope mine is a more positive action. I have friends in the business who every now and again when I twist their arms get Bing discs into various programmes, this has gone on for years. I have.... been responsible for getting Bing photos on non Bing LP's record sleeves that feature Bing songs, also sheet music etc. This goes back over a period of 15 years. I have even talked film producers into getting Bing discs played in juke box scenes in cafes etc. My Jazz connection includes having been in on sessions or meeting LOUIS ARMSTRONG: SYDNEY BECHET: BILL BROONZY: JOSH WHITE: EDDIE CONDON on to SIR JOHN BARBIROLI and SIR ADRIAN BOULT.

I bet I'm the only member who had records in the army. I carted my own record player and discs from France to Belgium and Holland and they were even present at the surrender at Luneburg in 1945. I was in the tanks and we had the discs in the spare part bins on the side. Has anyone else ever listened to SOUTH SEA ISLAND MAGIC huddled in a tank with three foot of snow outside - I have, and as one of you said "I can't be a fan as I'm not well known" - what have you to do before you get into the club???

I know I am leaving myself wide open to the title of 'Big Head', but this information was requested - now you've got it. One of my best efforts was as part composer of a BING CROSBY CALYPSO about 12 years ago. At the time the

..company I was with did a huge export to Jamaica of calypsos recorded in London. Our most famous one is of course THE VICTORY TEST MATCH with old Ramadin and Valentine. Anyway the Bing Calypso had a load of Bing titles woven into it - and we sold nearly 50,000 copies - some plug.

I sincerely hope that my many friends will forgive me for this potted biog of Ken the Menace - at least I hope that my many critics may drop me a line and take back a few of the more acid comments of my allegiance to Bing.

My sincere thanks to Jack and Frank for allowing me to waste valuable space and special thanks to a gentleman whose wife still has BING'S GOLF BALL - what's it worth to keep quiet - I bet that ones got you puzzled Frank - I wonder if Bing knows where it went.

Thanks a lot.....Ken Mc Manus.

*****CROSBY SOCIETY SINGING CONTEST*****

New member Tony Gilmartin of Blackburn, Lancs has come up with an idea for a Crosby Club Singing Contest. Frank Murphy and Jack Manners have given the idea their blessing and have asked me to handle the project - the rules are simple and the entrance fee is only 2/6 per entry,.

- 1...Record your song on a small tape and forward it to me at the address below.
- 2...Speed can be 1.7/8; 3 $\frac{3}{4}$; 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 15 ips but 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 15 ips is recommended.
- 3...You may have a musical accompaniment or not, just as you please.
- 4...The contest is open to club members, their families and friends.
- 5...You may send as many tapes as you like but each tape must contain only one song and each entry must be accompanied by a 2/6 postal order.
- 6...Enclose with each tape the following details on a slip of paper.
 - (a) Your full name and address and the speed of the tape (in block letters).
 - (b) A stamped addressed envelope for the return of your tape after the contest.
- 7...All tapes will be numbered and the judges will not know the names of the entrants until AFTER the final judging.
- 8...The prizes are as follows;

1st...A gold leaf etching by famous actor Lionel Barrymore.
from the clubs CROSBY ROOM and presented to the club
by the Crosby Office - This magnificent souvenir was
framed for the club by member Bill Bell.

2nd...Souvenir programme of the 20th Bing Crosby National Pro-
Amateur Golf Tourny. (50 super coloured pages)

3rd...Bing Crosby album of the winners choice.

The closing date for entries is NOVEMBER 10th

So come on you "Budding Bing's" and "Crooning Crosby's" (Guys and Dolls) let's make this a record competition...and remember all profits go to your club.

Please forward all your entries to; BOB ROBERTS
56 THOROLD ROAD
CHATHAM
KENT

JUNE 1964 - WE'RE NOT SELLING

Recently the Music Corporation of America assured British cinema interests that there was no truth in reports circulating within the trade that it was negotiating with BBC TV to sell British TV rights in 150 of the 700 films they acquired from Paramount in 1958. There must have been something in the gossip because the CEA (Cinematograph Exhibitors Association) had been told from very reliable sources that MCA were arranging some sort of deal with BBC TV. But, in London the BBC said; "There has been no deal or negotiation"

If readers are wondering how we are seeing the occasional Paramount film on TV, this is because they were made by outside interests and only released by that company. Recent examples being RUN FOR COVER and TROPIC ZONE.

There is no truth in rumours that The British Crosby Society, their bank balance overflowing has put in a counter bid for some of the films, starring a certain you know who.....

WARNER THEATRE RE-OPENING

After 14 weeks of closure the Warner Theatre in Leicester Sq. re-opened after a massive remodeling job. In all the cost of transformation into a new luxury cinema is £115,000 --pew!!

Originally opened 26 years ago their first film was ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD starring ERROL FLYNN, Co-incidentally, the film chosen to begin a new chapter in the theatres history is ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS a reworked version of the old Sherwood Forest tale, featuring as we all know, BING:

=====

AUCTION MART

From time to time members have been invited to place their ads in this section free of any charge whatsoever and generally members have limited their space requirements to reasonable lengths otherwise they would not have had their lists printed - however kind we may want to be we just can not afford to print huge lists of disposals without making any charge for paper and ink etc used and. members who do want to take advantage of the Post's facilities should please bear these comments in mind and when making a request for space remember to make a payment for the extra space that an extra large list will incur, anything up to a half a page or so would certainly not incur a charge for space, but over that would, so if you are in doubt, send your list and ask for a quote.

Recently recieved from Collector Terence Thompson is a list of some 173 titles of Bing discs for sale - Terences list covers four sides of two foolscap pages and quite honestly is too large for inclusion free - to include this in its entirety would cost about 5/- for stencils, 5/- for ink and about 12/- for paper without thinking about the postage the extra 5 pages would incur and I'm sure even Terence would admit along with other club members that the yearly 10/- sub does not entitle any member to a charge of at least 22/- against the clubs funds. So it would be much appreciated if members wanting to use large portions of the Post for auctions would make suitable arrangements to compensate the club for the expense required - I'm sure no-one could say we are being unreasonable. I am therefore returning Terence Thompson's list with this copy of the Post and would ask those members interested in seeing it to write to him at his address which is 180 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent - and on compliance with the above requests, Terence and any other collector can advertise at will in the pages of future editions of Crosby Post.

NEWSFEATURE
FROM WARNER PATHE

"ROBIN ---

--- AND ---

--- THE ---

--- SEVEN ---

--- HOODS" ---

technicolour- U

running time 123 minutes

A slick, chick, spoof on the gangster pictures made in the past, the Robin Hood legend transferred from Merrie England to Chicago in its wildest era. It has Frank Sinatra as Robbo, the number one hood who wins an entirely accidental reputation as a latter day Robin Hood, stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Dean Martin as a suave Little John, Sammy Davis as a nimble Will Scarlett, Bing Crosby as the unworldly Allan A Dale and Barbara Rush as the gorgeous ice cool Marion. It also has a dozen new songs and it has technicolour and Panavision too.

DON'T MISS "ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS" which is now playing at leading cinemas throught the British Isles now;

NEW FROM "PHOTO SECTION" by courtesy of Warner/Pathe

5, great action shots from ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS - all featuring BING.

The set - postcard size - 5/- overseas 50 cents

The set - 8"X10" size - 15/- overseas 2 dollars

Order now from BILL HALL - "OUTSIDE PROJECTS"

"THE GROANER IN THE GROOVE"

Crosby Posts quarterly review of the latest Bing on record

Hi Crosby Collectors here we are with another great period of new releases and once again the action hails from REPRISE - you know I must express great surprise at the increasing number of grumbles from members about the lack of Bing on some of these releases - like you I'd like whole albums every time from the maestro but I'd ask you to think - where would we collectors be without the Reprise set-up which, condemn though you may, has certainly given us some great Bing in recent months - remember too that this spot of good material from Bing is also reaching places in the collections of those who hitherto did'nt buy Bing - and I refer to little bits about Bing that I've read in "PERFECTLY FRANK" the mag of the Sinatra people - these would warm the heart of any Crosby fan - and what's all this nonsense about Bing being billed lower than the other stars in the "ROBIN" film - surely it must be obvious that a star of Crosby's calibre and business acumen is'nt going to allow himself to be billed in the wright place - you can rest assured that when contracts were drawn up, this matter would be very high on the list of important issues. But apart from that I go along with Ted Laker who says a bit of Bing is better than none at all - remember this is the first Crosby starrer since that miserable Hong Kong affair of 1961 - so to the soundtrack album.

I2" Album

original score from the motion picture musical comedy

Reprise

ROBIN AND THE 7 HOODS with

R 2021

Frank Sinatra; Dean Martin; Bing Crosby; Sammy Davis; Peter Falk; arranged & conducted by Nelson Riddle

Side One

OVERTURE: ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS: Nelson Riddle Orchestra--MY KIND OF TOWN: Frank Sinatra--ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL: Peter Falk--DON'T BE A DO-BADDER: Bing Crosby--ANY MAN WHO LOVES HIS MOTHER: Dean Martin--STYLE: Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin.

"Robin" album side two

MR BOOZE; Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis-- I LIKE TO LEAD WHEN I DANCE; Frank Sinatra--BANG BANG; Sammy Davis-- CHARLOTTE COULD'NT CHARLESTON; Ladies of the ensemble--GIVE PRAISE GIVE PRAISE, GIVE PRAISE; Chorus-- DON'T BE A DO BADDER; Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis (finale)

As is usually obvious some of these film songs will come over better when seen visually - for me STYLE comes into this category - Bing's DON'T BE A DO BADDER is the first number he's done with Nelson Riddle's orchestra to come over in the style we've been getting for so many years from his Sinatra sessions - I really like this one - great intro and the maestro in top form there's no lack of warmth in the Crosby voice and the end is a nice and pleasant surprise as Bing pulls one of his finishes to top off a great vocal, as well as a great orchestral backing from Nelson Riddle, the Kids give some fine support. MR BOOZE is a gem and the best film song we've had from Bing since "Now you has jazz" from "High Society" - I don't want to hear any grumbles about poor recording quality - on my Hi Fi set Bing sounds as if he's in the room as he comes in with "WHOSE TO BLAME" on the second chorus - all the films co-stars join in the merriment on this great number but Sammy Davis steals the comedy honours for a peach of a performance in his segment. Bing closes off the song with a great jazz slanted "Don't mess around with Mr Booze" - you'll love this number, its great --- Frank Sinatra has the top ballad with a beautiful number titled I LIKE TO LEAD WHEN I DANCE but poor old Dean Martin is badly served with what is probably the poorest number in the whole score.

So in spite of grumbles about poor billing and lack of quantity, here you have Bing in at least two numbers that measure up 100% better than those he has sung in any film he'd made since the memorable HIGH SOCIETY in 1956 - grumble if you will - I'm satisfied and will continue to be satisfied if the Clan and Reprise continue to give us THE BEST OF BING.....

The next release is not for release until October 23 so it will be a good start to the next "Groaner" feature - here is the title line-up.

Reprise I2" album - R 2022-A - R2022

TWELVE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS - BING CROSBY, FRANK SINATRA, FRED WARING AND HIS PENNSYLVANIANS.

1. WHITE CHRISTMAS.....Waring
2. IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN..Crosby
3. GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN.Sinatra/Crosby
4. WHEN ANGELS SANG OF PEACE..Waring
5. AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS.Sinatra
6. THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY.....Sinatra

1. I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY..Sinatra.
2. DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR.....Waring.
3. THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS.....CROSBY.
4. THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.....Waring.
5. CHRISTMAS CANDLES.....Crosby.
6. WE WISH YOU THE MERRIEST.....CROSBY/SINATRA

 * "AMERICA I HEAR YOU
 * SINGING"
 * at the time of going to
 * press there is no news
 * on the release of this
 * SINATRA/CROSBY/WARING
 * album being released
 * here - the Sinatra/
 * Crosby duet "You never
 * had it so good" is great
 * *****

"Hi new club members"

A cordial welcome is extended to new members of the Crosby circle - we hope you'll make many new friends within the group-;

Mr M Cullen 33 Holystone Cres, High Heaton, Newcastle on Tyne
 Mr T Gilmartin, 6 Lambeth Str, Blackburn, Lancs.
 Mr J Bell, 58 Gorsdene Road, Whitley Bay, Northumberland
 Mr C Duncombe, 206 Verne Rd, North Shields, Northumberland
 Mr W Weir, 46 Hazelwood Terr, High Howdon, Wallsend, Northumberland
 Mr H Swan, 8 Lovaine Place, North Shields, Northumberland
 Mr and Mrs Batey, 8 Dean Ave, Killingworth Station, Newcastle on Tyne I2
 Mr D Mc Clean, 16a Forbes Str, Alloa, Scotland.
 Mr A Siegel, RFD # 2, Port Jervis, New York, USA.

 TOP TEN FILM LISTS

what went wrong this time Bingsters - ????? - only one list to hand - could it have been the postal strike or your summer holidays - ???? - let's have lot's more lists for the December Post - so that Keith Hyde over in Australia can have fun telling us the final top ten Bing films from the many starrers that the maestro has appeared in - here's the only list to come in this time..

From Ted Burnell, 14 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

(1)THE COUNTRY GIRL: (2)BLUE SKIES: (3)THE EMPEROR WALTZ: (4)HIGH SOCIETY:
 (5)THE ROAD TO BALI: (6) THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S: (7) A YANKER AT KING ARTHURS
 COURT: (8)GOING MY WAY: (9)THE ROAD TO RIO: (10) DIXIE:

THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY

by Frank Murphy

In the last edition of Crosby Post I gave you a brief picture of the 1930's Record Society - and happily I can report that the group is going from strength to strength - I'm pleased to be able to announce that the Northern group of our club has become associated with the club and plans are going ahead for a joint social night to be held at the club's official headquarters at the MEMORIAL HALL, OBAN ROAD, BYKER, NEWCASTLE ON TYNE 6, in October - dates and details will be issued to Northern members later when they are finalised. At a recent committee meeting at the hall I was invited to join the selection committee for the monthly record programme and was happy to be of service. I now compere a monthly BING SINGS at the monthly club meetings on the 3rd wednesday of every month - In these days when obscure and talentless objects flaunt objectionable music at an equally moronic audience, it's a pleasure to find a person of Frank Wappat's enterprise and I'm happy to be associated with the aims and ideas of the 30's Record Society - I can also recommend members of The British Crosby Society to write to Frank Wappat to find out more about the 30's club magazine and functions in different parts of England and the world

.....
 DON'T MISS THE CHRISTMAS BUMPER EDITION OF CROSBY POST - WE'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL WITH SOME GREAT AND EXCITING FEATURES PLUS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BING HIMSELF - SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 15th.....



Best Wishes
Always
Tom Cross